



Attorney Docket: 2285/51302

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

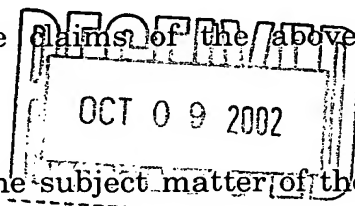
Applicant: YUMIKO KAWANO ET AL.
Serial No.: 10/052,306 Group Art Unit:
Filed: JANUARY 18, 2002 Examiner:
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above identified application.



The relevance of references AK, AR, and AS to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background Art section of the specification of the present invention.

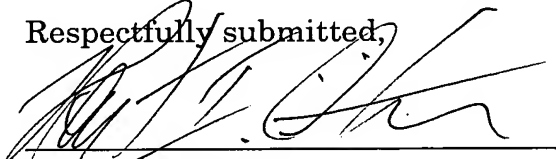
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

October 4, 2002


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